



SUCCESS STORY

“Malena” Stoves: adapting to climate change in rural communities

USAID/Bolivia provides support to promote and improve food security and access to food in rural municipalities in Bolivia, and contributes to actions that seek to mitigate climate change and help people to adapt to its effects.



Crucinda Ventura has a non-polluting Malena stove in her home in Caracollo.

**USAID/Bolivia:
working together for a better
life**

The community of Pongo Cabiña in the Municipality of Caracollo, Oruro, lies at an altitude of more than 4,000 meters in a region swept by cold, harsh winds. The 40 families who live in the community mainly work in agriculture (producing quinoa, potatoes and broad beans) and livestock farming. The climate and socio-economic conditions meant that until recently these families have been using open fires called *k'eris* – burning wood obtained from local bushes, sawdust and manure from their livestock – for cooking and to heat their homes. The daily use of firewood has meant that the bushes are now few and far between.

Crucinda Ventura has lived in Pongo Cabiña for 35 years. She remembers that when she was a child, she and her brothers and sisters had to work to get the smoke out of the house when their mother was cooking, because the firewood filled their home with smoke and toxic fumes. They used a blanket to ventilate the room where they slept. Throughout her childhood, Crucinda suffered from recurrent respiratory and eye infections.

Crucinda is now the mother of two children and her family is one of 30 in her community who have benefited from the installation of a Malena Stove in their homes. This environmentally-friendly stove, which uses firewood more efficiently, is made of mud and adobe bricks. It is designed to use less firewood and the small amount of smoke it produces is funneled out of the house through a chimney.

“This stove is a great improvement,” says Crucinda. “It uses much less firewood and cooks more quickly. The house is now free of smoke and my children spend their days more happily.”

USAID/Bolivia is supporting families in the highlands and valleys to take forward specific actions and initiatives to adapt to climate change and promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

More than 29,200 people like Crucinda in Pongo Cabiña have benefited from the installation of 2,000 Malena Stoves in eight municipalities in the highlands and valleys of Bolivia, in an initiative that protects the environment and promotes conservation.

USAID/Bolivia Integrated Food Security Activity seeks to help Bolivia improving the food/nutrition of parents and children, providing social services including health, education and justice, providing basic

For more information, please visit the USAID website: <http://bolivia.usaid.gov>

services such as housing, potable water, basic sanitation and electricity and development of economic potential in areas such as agriculture, aquaculture, and tourism.